

Energize Indiana Update

Friday, Aug. 8, 2003

The News in Brief...

O'Bannon, Kernan reach halfway mark with largest forum yet

More than 250 business, education and community leaders turned out Tuesday to hear Governor Frank O'Bannon, Lieutenant Governor Joe Kernan and the Energize Indiana team talk about economic development in East Central Indiana at Ball State University. The stop was the sixth of 12 forums to be hosted around the state this summer and early fall.

Your input needed for second half!

The halfway point is a good time to evaluate how well the Energize Indiana team has performed so far and what we can do better in the second half. Your thoughts are needed about the forums and what we can do to facilitate your business's growth.

[Click here to take the EI survey!](#)



Gov. O'Bannon and Lt. Gov. Kernan with Region 8 Commerce staff Jean Breaux, Director Greg Beumer and Abby Daugherty.

For more about Energize Indiana:

IN Department of Commerce

(317) 232-8800

www.indianacommerce.com

IN Department of Workforce Development

(317) 233-5514

www.workforce.IN.gov

Rural development

(317) 232-8876

www.IN.gov/irdc or www.in.gov/oca

The Ports of Indiana

(317) 232-9200

www.portsofindiana.com

The 21st Century Research and Technology Fund

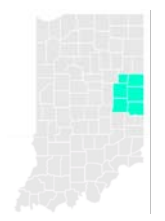
(317) 234-1625

www.21fund.org

O'Bannon, Ford talk eco-devo in Muncie



Governor O'Bannon and Sen. David Ford, R-Hartford City, discuss economic development at the Energize Indiana forum in Muncie. Sen. Ford's district includes Blackford County of Region 8.



Economic profile: Department of Commerce Region 8

Blackford, Delaware, Henry, Jay,
Randolph and Wayne counties

Profile: A region highlighted by its diversity

What do you get when you combine a leading Indiana university (Ball State), a highly respected teaching hospital (Ball Memorial), four vibrant rural counties (Blackford, Henry, Jay and Randolph) and a logistics crossroads for two states (Richmond) and place them all in the same region? You get Region 8, the East Central Indiana Department of Commerce region. One of Region 8's greatest strengths is its myriad economic resources, which are as diverse as the businesses and Hoosiers who call this region home.

Success story: Uptown Innovation Center

The Main Street Richmond Wayne County organization has launched an ambitious project to turn an abandoned and outdated uptown building into a 21st century marvel – an entrepreneurial business incubator and state of the art training and video conferencing facility. The project started in 1999 as part of a development strategy for creating and attracting “new economy” companies to the uptown area. In 2000 Main Street RWC purchased the building; it has been vacant for almost a decade. Main Street RWC chose to see it as an opportunity, rather than a problem.